

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7995
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION GENEVA

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BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SENV, NATO, ECE, UK
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SUBJECT: NATO ECONADS: BASKET
II CONSULTATION ON ENVIRONMENT

REF: STATE 208943

1. WE DISCUSSED U.S. VIEWS ON AGENDA FOR PROPOSED ECE

HIGH-LEVEL ENVIRONMENT MEETING WITH FCO OFFICIAL ROY
REEVE, WHO WILL REPRESENT UK AT SEPT. 8 ECONADS MEETING.

2. THE BRITISH CLEARLY RECOGNIZE THAT TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION IS THE LEADING CANDIDATE TO BE CENTRAL ISSUE AT ECE MEETING. HOWEVER, THEY PREDICTABLY HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE NORDICS' PROPOSAL TO NARROW THE MEETING'S FOCUS DOWN TO THE SPECIFIC SUBJECT OF "EMISSIONS CONTROL." THIS WOULD PUT THE UK "IN THE DOCK" BECAUSE OF THE WELL-KNOWN PROBLEM OF UK EMISSIONS FALLING ON NORDIC COUNTRIES. ON THE SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION OF EMISSIONS CONTROLS, BRITISH TECHNICAL EXPERTS FEEL (A) THERE ARE OTHER WAYS OF COPING WITH THE NORDIC PROBLEM BESIDES STRICT EMISSION CONTROLS, AND (B) THE COST WOULD BE PROHIBITIVE.

3. THE UK IS GENERALLY IN AGREEMENT THAT TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION, WIDELY DEFINED, IS A KEY PROBLEM THAT MERITS ATTENTION AND MEETS AGREED ECE CRITERIA. IN UK VIEW, HOWEVER, "EMISSION CONTROLS" DOES NOT MEET ALL THE CRITERIA.

4. BRITISH ARE NOT CONVINCED OF THE NEED TO FINALIZE ANYTHING AT THE SEPT. 19-21 ECE MEETING. THEY WILL PROBABLY SEEK TO HAVE THE OTHER POSSIBLE SUBJECTS ON STANOVNIK'S LIST CONSIDERED MORE THOROUGHLY AND GO ONLY

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AS FAR AS HAVING THE ECE SECRETARIAT WINNOW DOWN THE OTHER POSSIBLE SUBJECTS TO THREE OR FOUR FOR CONSIDERATION AT A LATER MEETING.

5. IN SHORT, THE BRITISH COULD PROBABLY LIVE WITH A SINGLE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION AGENDA ITEM BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE A NUMBER OF SUBTHEMES WHICH WOULD SERVE THE PURPOSE OF EXPANDING THE SUBJECT BEYOND THE EMISSION CONTROL ISSUE WHICH IS A NEURALGIC ONE HERE.

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Message Attributes

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